REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the comments set forth fully below. Claims 1-24 were pending. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-24 have been rejected. By the above amendments, Claims 1, 12, 23 and 24 have been amended and new Claims 25-28 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-28 are now pending.

Objections to the Claims

Within the Office Action, Claim 1 has been objected to because the term "utilizing" was misspelled. By the above amendments, this term has been spelled correctly in Claim 1.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 12, 14-16 and 20-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,411,771 to Aotake ("Aotake"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Aotake teaches a picture processing apparatus. An MPEG1 real time encoder board generates index data as an evaluation value representing the complexity of a picture. A scene change parameter representing the degree of a scene change occurring in the picture is then calculated from the index data. The scene change parameter is associated with a scene change pointer. The scene change parameter and the scene change pointer are recorded as an index in an index file. An MPEG system stream output by the MPEG1 real time encoder board is stored in an MPEG file separated from the index file. [Aotake, Abstract] Aotake also teaches utilizing a personal computer with an embedded MPEG1 real-time encoder board. The personal computer uses application programs for editing, recording, reproduction in addition to MPEG decoding of pictures and other picture processing. [Aotake, col. 8, lines 20-26] However, Aotake does not teach a coding scheme for encoding which is selected from a variety of coding schemes.

Within the Response to Arguments Section of the Office Action, it is stated that Aotake meets the limitations of the broadly claimed limitation in Figure 8, element 327 and col. 10, lines

18-32, where a user can select a recording mode from a group of recording modes. The Applicants respectfully disagree. As taught by Aotake in this cited section

> [t]o be more specific, the MPEG1 real time encoder board 213 is capable of encoding a picture and sound in 4 different video recording modes including a mode of encoding at a high bit rate for high quality picture recording and a mode of encoding at a low bit rate for transmission. As will be described later, enumerated in an order of decreasing bit rates, the video recording modes are "High", "Normal", "Long" and Network". [Aotake, col. 10, lines 21-28]

These recording modes, taught by Aotake, are not the same as the coding schemes taught in the present specification and claimed within the presently pending claims.

In contrast to Aotake, the present invention is directed to a system and method for timeshifting the encoding and decoding of a compressed audio/video bitstream. The compressed audio/video bitstream is encoded and stored. After a period of time, the encoded bitstream is retrieved and decoded. [Present Specification, Paragraph 0018]

The software-based timeshifting system includes two main components, an encoder and a decoder. The timeshifting system receives an analog or digital signal at a signal input. The analog signals are received and encoded by an encoder system and are then stored in storage or a transmission medium. The encoded signals are transferred to a decoder system. Then, decoder signals are transferred to video and audio output. The timeshifting system accepts a variety of different input signal formats, including but not limited to, MPEG-2, MPEG-4 and digital video. [Present Specification, Paragraph 28 and the accompanying Figure 1b] Furthermore, the timeshifting system is able to perform timeshifting using a variety of different coding schemes and system formats which include, but are not limited to MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, digital video, JPEG and Motion JPEG-2000. [Present Specification, Paragraph 52]

As discussed previously, the timeshifting system of the present invention is able to perform timeshifting using a variety of different coding schemes and system formats which include, but are not limited to MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, digital video, JPEG and Motion JPEG-2000. These different coding schemes and system formats are very different than the recording modes taught by Aotake. In order to further differentiate, the present claims from the teachings of Aotake, the present claims have been amended by the above amendments to specify that each coding scheme has a different signal format. Aotake does not teach a coding scheme for encoding which is selected from a variety of coding schemes. Aotake also does not teach that each coding scheme has a different signal format.

The independent Claim 1 is directed to a method. The method of Claim 1 comprises encoding a compressed domain bitstream utilizing a coding scheme selected from a variety of coding schemes, each coding scheme having a different signal format, storing the encoded bitstream, retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time and decoding the retrieved bitstream. As described above, Aotake does not teach a coding scheme for encoding which is selected from a variety of coding schemes. Aotake also does not teach that each coding scheme has a different signal format. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake.

Claims 3-5 and 9-11 are dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claims 3-5 and 9-11 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 12 is directed to a system. The system of Claim 12 comprises an encoder for encoding a compressed domain bitstream utilizing a coding scheme selected from a variety of coding schemes, each coding scheme having a different signal format, a storage medium for storing the encoded bitstream and a decoder for retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time and decoding the retrieved bitstream. As described above, Aotake does not teach a coding scheme for encoding which is selected from a variety of coding schemes. Aotake also does not teach that each coding scheme has a different signal format. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 12 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake.

Claims 14-16 and 20-22 are dependent upon the independent Claim 12. As discussed above, the independent Claim 12 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claims 14-16 and 20-22 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 23 is directed to a system. The system of Claim 23 comprises means for encoding a compressed domain bitstream utilizing a coding scheme selected from a variety of coding schemes, each coding scheme having a different signal format, means for storing the encoded bitstream, means for retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time and means for decoding the retrieved bitstream. As described above, Aotake does not teach a coding scheme for encoding which is selected from a variety of coding schemes. Aotake also does not teach that each coding scheme has a different signal format. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 23 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake.

The independent Claim 24 is directed to a computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed on a processor, perform a method for timeshifting the encoding and decoding of a bitstream. The system of Claim 24 comprises means for encoding a compressed domain bitstream utilizing a coding scheme selected from a variety of coding

schemes, each coding scheme having a different signal format, means for storing the encoded bitstream, means for retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time and means for decoding the retrieved bitstream. As described above, Aotake does not teach a coding scheme for encoding which is selected from a variety of coding schemes. Aotake also does not teach that each coding scheme has a different signal format. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 24 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 2 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aotake in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,270,829 to Yang ("Yang"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 2 is dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claim 2 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 13 is dependent upon the independent Claim 12. As discussed above, the independent Claim 12 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claim 13 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 6 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aotake in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,148,135 to Suzuki ("Suzuki"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 6 is dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claim 6 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 17 is dependent upon the independent Claim 12. As discussed above, the independent Claim 12 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claim 17 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 7, 8, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aotake in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,455,684 to Fujinami ("Fujinami"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claims 7 and 8 are dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claims 7 and 8 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 18 and 19 are dependent upon the independent Claim 12. As discussed above, the independent Claim 12 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claims 18 and 19 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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